

# Minnesota Measures

A report on higher education performance

## Executive Summary

For most of Minnesota's 150 years of statehood, its distinctive economic advantages were largely a function of its natural resources, such as timber, taconite and tourism. Today, while these and other resources remain cornerstones of the state's economy, it is clear that the intellectual capacity of Minnesota's people is emerging as a promising strategic advantage in a global economy.

Recognizing this, Governor Tim Pawlenty and the Minnesota Legislature charged the Minnesota Office of Higher Education with developing a statewide accountability system to measure the higher education sector's effectiveness in meeting state goals.

In 2005 and 2006, educators, policymakers, employers and other leaders were involved in a process to identify broad goals and indicators of success. Five goals emerged, which serve as the organizing framework for this report. The five goals and 23 indicators serve as Minnesota's public agenda for higher education. No single indicator tells the complete story. However, taken together, some findings begin to emerge.

Minnesota's leaders recognize that, in order to lead consistently in these areas, the state must first embrace a system of accountability that can measure progress toward goals.

- |                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| <b>GOAL ONE</b>   | Improve success of all students, particularly students from groups traditionally underrepresented in higher education.                                      |
| <b>GOAL TWO</b>   | Create a responsive system that produces graduates at all levels who meet the demands of the economy.   |
| <b>GOAL THREE</b> | Increase student learning and improve skill levels of students so they can compete effectively in the global marketplace.                                   |
| <b>GOAL FOUR</b>  | Contribute to the development of a state economy that is competitive in the global market through research, workforce training and other appropriate means. |
| <b>GOAL FIVE</b>  | Provide access, affordability and choice to all students.   |

## Acknowledgements

The Office of Higher Education thanks the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities, the University of Minnesota, the Minnesota Private College Council and the Minnesota Career College Association for their participation and assistance in this process.